

## **REMAINDERS OF CARPET WEAVING ON THE GRAVESTONES MEDIEVAL AZERBAIJAN**

Numerous grave monuments found in the territory of Azerbaijan store documentary information about the wide distribution of carpet crafts in the folk environment in the Middle Ages.

Despite the negative attitude of Islam to the images of a man, however, images of women weavers were sometimes created on gravestones. In the medieval grave monuments of Azerbaijan, there is a tradition of depicting tools, weapons, and jewelry that the deceased used during his lifetime. This tradition allows you to reconstruct the traditional way and craft of the buried.

The overwhelming majority of gravestones with images of a carpet weaving machine and tools used in the weaving process are installed on women's graves.

Gravestones with images of carpet weaving symbols are common in three types of grave structures:

1. Grave monument in the form of an arrow-shaped stele, dug vertically into the ground. The stele itself imitates the mikhrab arch of the mosque, to which the worshiper addresses during prayer. The dome-shaped, arrow-shaped stela indicates the deceased's Islamic faith. This type of grave monument is called “Bashdash” (Headstone).

2. A chest-shaped tombstone in the form of a horizontally placed stone block in the form of a parallelepiped. This type of monument is called “Sanduqa” (Little Chest).

3. A grave monument combining a vertical stela and a chest-shaped stone block. Such a monument has both “bashdash” and “sanduqa”.

The visual design of the tombstones has differences:

In the regions of Azerbaijan, where the nomadic traditions were strong, and Islamic prohibitions were formal, weavers themselves were depicted on grave monuments. In those regions where the position of Islam was strong - only ornaments, carpets and carpet weaving tools were depicted. Among the images of carpets on grave monuments, the image of the prayer carpet “Namazlyk” is more common. There are many images and ordinary carpets, especially in the Shirvan zone.

Much more common image of the vertical carpet loom. Realistic and schematic images of weaving carpet loom were found in the gravestones of the Shirvan, Quba, Kazakh, Mugan regions.

Most of the graves belong to women whose names are written in Arabic graphics. Dates of death are written according to the Muslim lunar calendar Hijri.

The earliest grave monuments with images of carpet weaving symbols date back to the mid-16th century. The most recent - the end of the 19th - the beginning of the 20th century. Thus, in the grave monuments we have reliable evidence of the widespread carpet weaving in Caucasian Azerbaijan during the Middle Ages.

Carpets of the 16-18 centuries are almost not preserved in the national collections of Azerbaijan. But the gravestones with the carpet weaving symbols depicted on them have been preserved:

1. Image of the carpet. (Including - prayer carpet).
2. The image of a carpet weaving loom.
3. The image of scissors for cutting a pile carpet.
4. Image of a carpet knitting knife with a hook at the end.
4. Image comb for wool.
5. Image of a small beater with teeth for sealing knots and weft yarn (*Kirkit*).
6. Image of a large (heavy) beater for compaction knots and weft threads (*Hava*).

Grave monuments of the Middle Ages allow us to replenish our knowledge of the "lost period" of the carpet weaving craft in Azerbaijan.

- \* Notes: 1. Photos №№ 5-8; 12-18; 20; 22-23 made by the author of the article on the old Cemeteries of Azerbaijan.
2. Arabic inscriptions on graves №№. 1-4 read the epigraphist Neymat M.S.

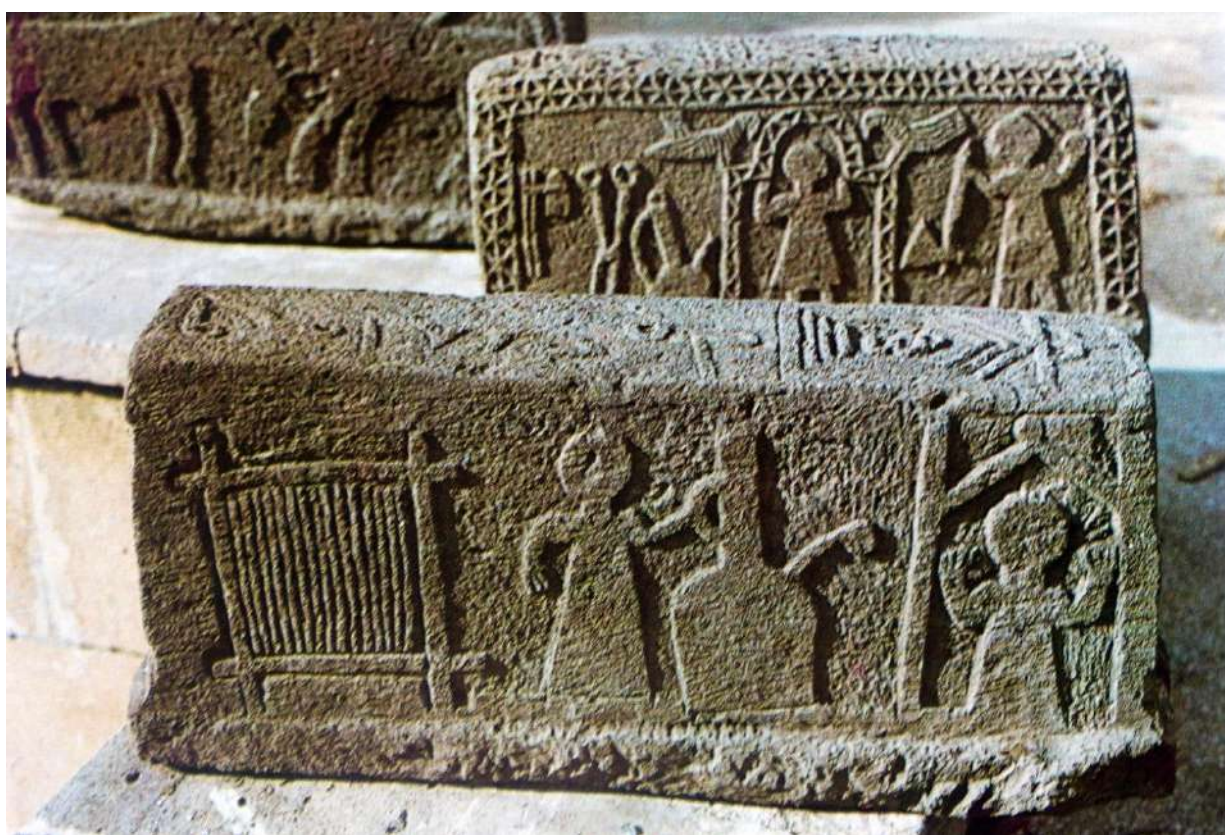
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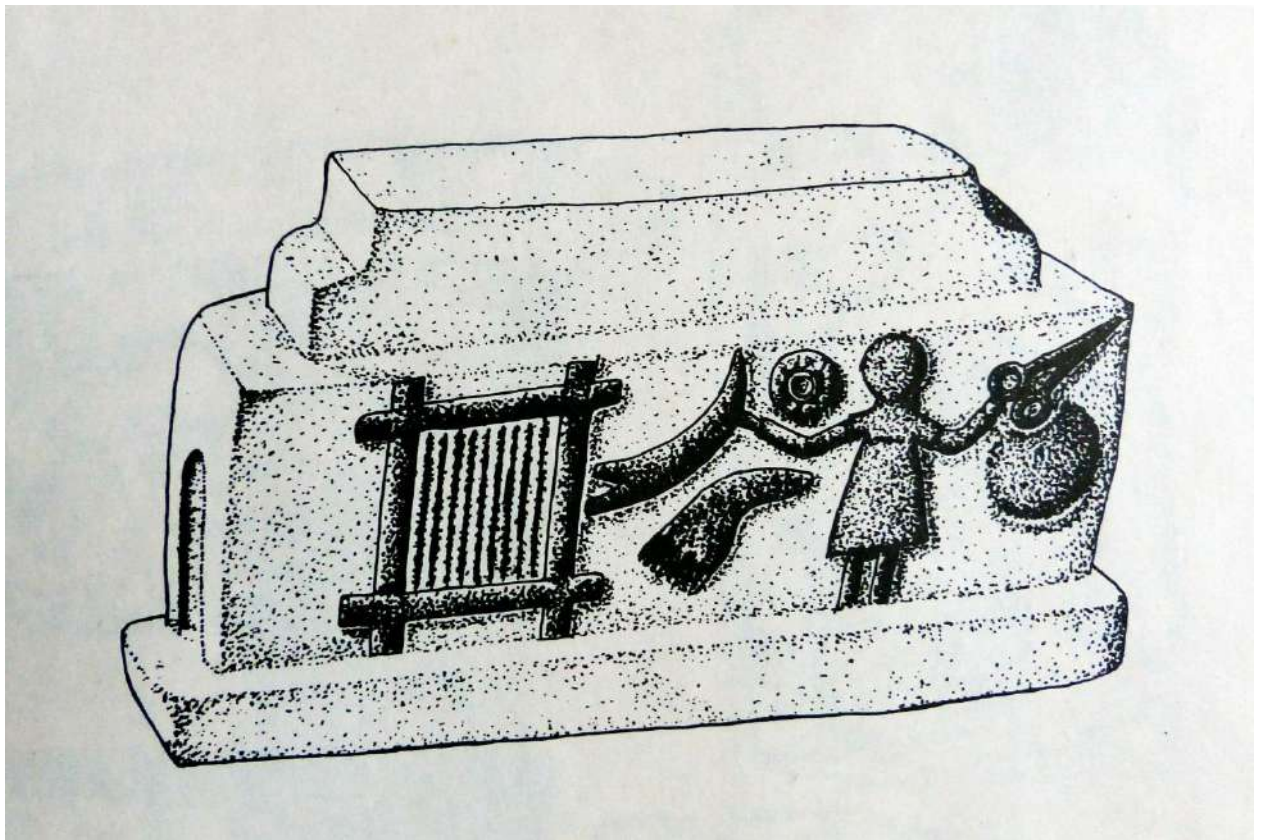
Carpet Tools





1. Tombstone. Sisian. Ancient Village Urud. H.985 (AD. 1577)





2. Tombstone. Lachin. Village Seyidlar. H.1041 (AD.1632)



3. Tombstone. Khachmaz Village Gymyl kyshlak. XV century.





4. Tombstone. Gobustan. Cemetery "Sufi Hamid." XVIII century.





5. Tombstone, mounted in the wall of the sanctuary. Cuba. Village Hapyt. XIX century



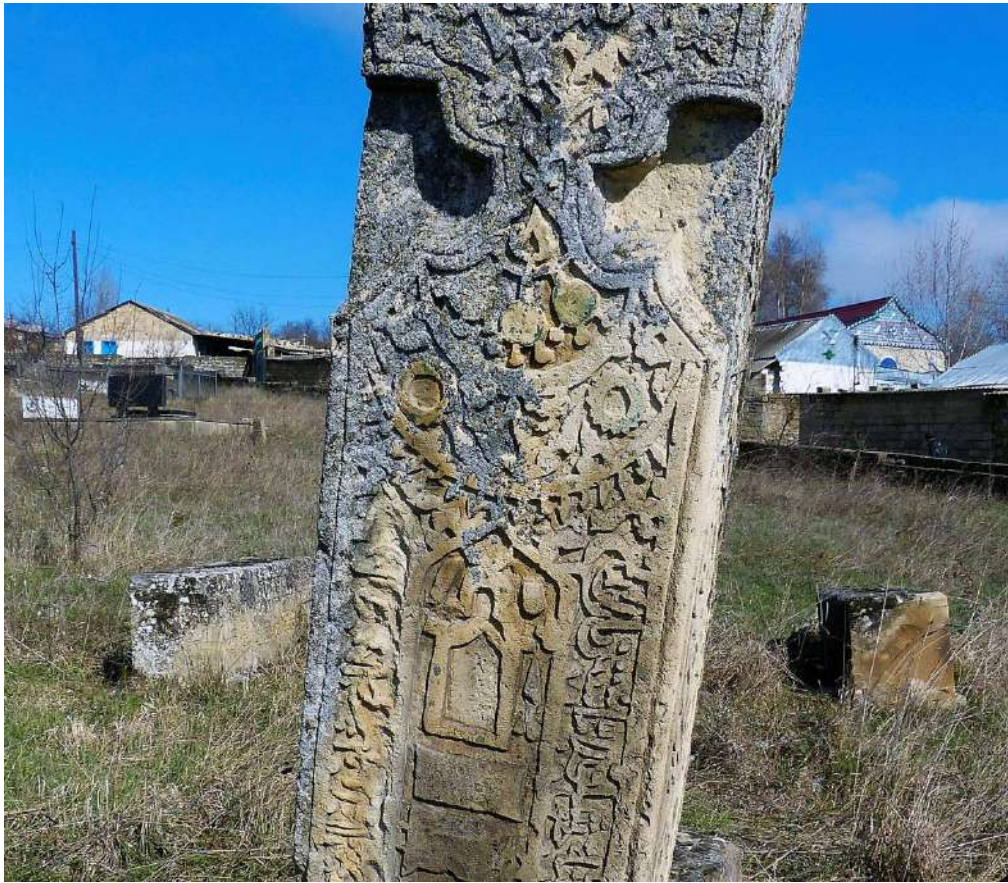


6. Tombstone. Gobustan. Village Garajuzlu. Late 19th century



7. Tombstone. Gobustan. Village Tekle. Early 20th century





8. Tombstone. Gobustan. Village Sundu. Late XIXth century



9. Tombstone. Shamakhy. Village Gonagkend. Early 20th century





10. Tombstone. Iranian Azerbaijan. Village Sakkyz. Late 19th century





11. Tombstone. Georgia. Dmanisi. Late 19th century





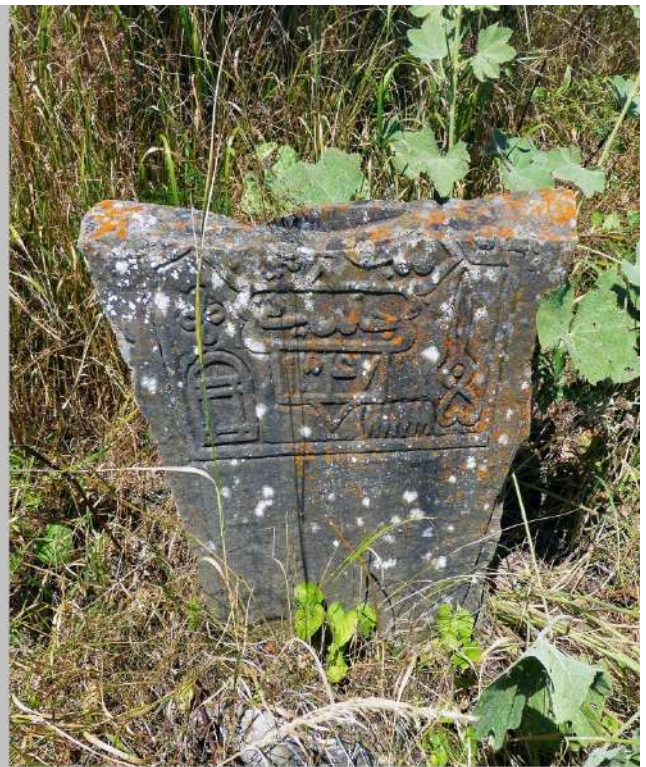
12. Tombstone. Lerik. Village Jangamiran. Late 19th century





13. Tombstone. Ismailly. Village Mudri. H. 1314 (AD. 1887)





14. Tombstone. Ismailly. Village Mudri. Late 19th century



15. Tombstone. Gobustan. Village Gurbanchi. Late 19th century





16. Tombstone. Gobustan. Village of Garajuzlu. Late 19th century



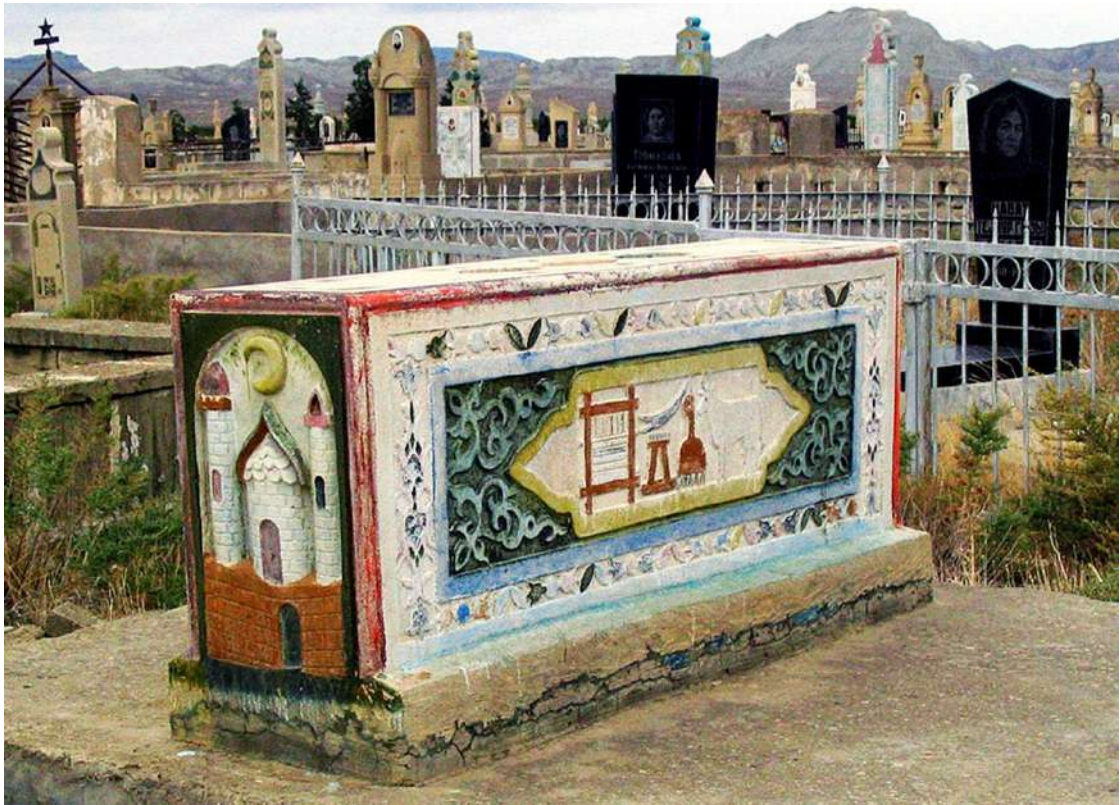


17. Tombstone. Gobustan. Village Garajuzlu. Late 19th century



18. Tombstones. Gobustan. Abandoned Village Chay Gurbanchi. Late 19th century





19. Tombstone. Gobustan. Cemetery "Sufi Hamid." Early 20th century



20. Tombstone. Gubadly (Karabakh). Village Demirchilar. Middle XIXth century.





21. Tombstone. Siyazan. Cemetery of the Sanctuary "Tajli Ana". XIXth century.





22. Tombstone. Khyzy. Village Tykhly. Late 19th century





23. Tombstone. Ismailly. Village Garsala. H. 1296 (AD. 1881)





24. Tombstones. Gobustan. Village Jamjamli. Early 20th century